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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1 (currently amended): An automobile hinge for pivotably mounting a pivotable panel component to a vehicle body, said automobile hinge comprising:

a panel attachment plate adapted to be secured to a pivotable panel of a vehicle, said panel attachment plate comprising a stamped metallic plate;

a body attachment plate adapted to be secured to a vehicle body, said body attachment plate comprising a stamped metallic plate; and

an intermediate member pivotably attached to said body attachment plate, said panel attachment plate being pivotably attached to said intermediate member, said intermediate member comprising a stamped metallic member having first and second portions arranged at an angle relative to one another, each of said first and second portions of said intermediate member having a generally U-shaped cross section along substantially an entire length thereof and each of said first and second portions comprising opposite sidewalls and a center flange extending between said opposite sidewalls, said intermediate member being pivotably attached to said body attachment plate at a junction of said first and second portions, said junction having opposite sidewalls that pivotally attach to said body attachment plate, said sidewalls of said first portion engaging said body attachment plate with said center flange of said first portion being spaced from said body attachment plate when said intermediate member is pivoted toward a first position where ~~a~~ said first portion of said intermediate member is positioned generally along said body attachment plate, said intermediate member being securable in said first position relative to said body attachment plate.

2 (canceled).

3 (previously presented): The automobile hinge of claim 1, wherein said panel attachment plate is pivotably attached to said intermediate member at an end of said second portion opposite said junction of said first and second portions.

4 (original): The automobile hinge of claim 3, wherein said intermediate member includes a panel stop member at said end that is configured to engage a portion of said panel attachment plate to limit pivotal movement of said panel attachment plate.

5 (previously presented): The automobile hinge of claim 1, wherein said intermediate member includes a body plate stop member that is configured to engage a portion of said body attachment plate to limit pivotal movement of said intermediate member away from said first position.

6 (previously presented): The automobile hinge of claim 5, wherein said body plate stop member comprises at least one flange protruding outwardly from said first portion of said intermediate member and in a direction generally transverse to a longitudinal axis of said first portion, said at least one flange being configured to engage a corresponding flange extending from said body attachment plate.

7 (previously presented): The automobile hinge of claim 1, wherein said body attachment plate comprises a generally planar plate portion and at least one raised flange extending generally along an edge portion of said plate portion, said raised flange extending generally vertically when said plate portion is generally horizontal, said raised flange including a portion that extends generally transverse to said edge portion to define a hinge portion for pivotally attaching said intermediate member to said body attachment plate.

8 (original): The automobile hinge of claim 1, wherein said intermediate member includes at least one panel stop member that is configured to engage a stop portion of said panel attachment plate to limit pivotal movement of said panel attachment plate.

9 (original): The automobile hinge of claim 8, wherein at least one of said panel stop member and said stop portion is adaptable to limit pivotal movement of said panel attachment plate at different positions by being cut to different sizes during the manufacturing of said automobile hinge.

10 (original): The automobile hinge of claim 8, wherein said at least one panel stop member comprises a pair of panel stop members extending from respective ones of said sidewalls of said intermediate member.

11 (original): The automobile hinge of claim 10, wherein said stop members are adaptable to limit pivotal movement of said panel attachment plate at different positions by being cut to different sizes during the manufacturing of said automobile hinge.

12 (original): The automobile hinge of claim 1, wherein said center flange of said intermediate member includes a fastener portion extending generally toward said body attachment plate when said intermediate member is in said first position, said intermediate member being securable to said body attachment plate via a fastener at said fastener receiving portion.

13 (previously presented): An automobile hinge for pivotably mounting a pivotable panel component to a vehicle body, said automobile hinge comprising:

a panel attachment plate adapted to be secured to a pivotable panel of a vehicle;

a body attachment plate adapted to be secured to a vehicle body, said body attachment plate comprising a generally planar plate portion and a pair of raised flanges along an edge region of said plate portion, said body attachment plate having a hinge portion, said hinge portion comprising a pair of opposed flanges extending generally transverse to said raised flanges, said raised flanges and said opposed flanges extending generally vertically when said plate portion is generally horizontal; and

an intermediate member pivotably attached to said body attachment plate via a pivot member extending through said hinge portion and said intermediate member, said intermediate member comprising a stamped metallic member, said panel attachment plate pivotably attached to said intermediate member, said intermediate member including at least one stop adapted to limit the range of pivotal movement of said panel attachment plate with respect to said intermediate member, said at least one stop limiting the pivotal movement of said panel attachment plate at different positions by being cut to different sizes during the manufacturing of said automobile hinge.

14 (previously presented): The automobile hinge of claim 13, wherein said intermediate member comprises a first portion and a second portion arranged at an angle relative to one another, said intermediate member being pivotably attached to said body attachment plate at a junction of said first and second portions.

15 (original): The automobile hinge of claim 14, wherein said panel attachment plate is pivotably attached to said intermediate member at an end of said second portion opposite said junction of said first and second portions.

16 (original): The automobile hinge of claim 14, wherein said intermediate member includes opposite sidewalls and a center flange extending between said opposite sidewalls.

17 (original): The automobile hinge of claim 16, wherein said at least one panel stop member comprises a pair of panel stop members extending from respective ones of said sidewalls of said intermediate member at said end of said second portion.

18 (original): The automobile hinge of claim 16, wherein said sidewalls of said first portion engage said body attachment plate with said center flange being spaced from said body attachment plate when said intermediate member is pivoted toward a first position where said

first portion of said intermediate member is positioned generally along said body attachment plate.

19 (original): The automobile hinge of claim 18, wherein said center flange of said first portion includes a fastener portion extending toward said body attachment plate when said intermediate member is in said first position, said intermediate member being securable to said body attachment plate via a fastener at said fastener receiving portion.

20 (previously presented): The automobile hinge of claim 18, wherein said intermediate member includes a body plate stop member that is configured to engage a portion of said opposed flanges of said body attachment plate to limit pivotal movement of said intermediate member away from said first position.

21 (previously presented): The automobile hinge of claim 20, wherein said body plate stop member comprises at least one flange protruding outwardly from said first portion of said intermediate member and in a direction that is generally transverse to a longitudinal axis of said first portion.

22 (canceled).

23 (currently amended): A method for making an automobile hinge comprising:

providing a panel attachment plate adapted to be secured to a pivotable panel component of a vehicle;

providing a body attachment plate adapted to be secured to a vehicle body;

providing an intermediate member by stamping a metallic sheet, said stamped intermediate member comprising first and second leg portions extending from a junction of said first and second leg portions and extending at an angle to one another, each of said first and second leg portions comprising a generally U-shaped cross section extending substantially an

entire length thereof and each of said first and second leg portions having opposite sidewalls and a center flange extending between said opposite sidewalls, said junction of said first and second leg portions having opposite sidewalls and a center flange extending between said opposite sidewalls;

pivotably attaching said intermediate member to said body attachment plate, said intermediate member being pivotably attached to said body attachment plate generally at ~~an apex~~ said sidewalls of said junction of said first and second leg portions, said intermediate member being pivotable to a first position, where said first leg portion of said intermediate member is positioned generally along and at least partially engages said body attachment plate;

pivotably attaching said panel attachment plate to said intermediate member, said panel attachment plate being pivotably attached to said sidewalls of said intermediate member at or near an end portion of said second leg portion; ~~and~~

forming a stop portion at said intermediate member to define a stop, said stop being configured to limit the range of pivotal movement of one of said panel attachment plate and said body attachment plate with respect to said intermediate member; and ~~, said stop and said intermediate member being stamped to have a selected one of at least two forms of said intermediate member to define the desired stopping position of said one of said panel attachment plate and said body attachment plate with respect to said intermediate member at a respective one of at least two orientations~~

securing said first leg portion to said body attachment plate when said intermediate member is in said first position.

24 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein providing a body attachment plate comprises stamping a body attachment plate out of sheet metal, said body attachment plate being stamped to have a generally planar plate portion and a pair of flanges extending along an edge portion of said plate portion, each of said flanges comprising a first portion extending generally along said edge portion and a second portion extending generally transverse to said first portion, said second portions comprising spaced apart and opposed flanges and defining a hinge portion,

said intermediate portion being pivotably attached to said body attachment plate at said hinge portion.

25 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein forming said stop portion comprises adjusting a stamping tool to form a desired stop on said intermediate member.

26 (original): The method of claim 23, wherein said hinge is adapted to be attached to a vehicle body and a vehicle gate, said method including attaching a vehicle gate to said panel attachment plate and attaching said body attachment plate to a vehicle body.

27 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein forming said stop portion comprises punching a greater portion from said intermediate member to create a greater range of motion of said panel attachment plate with respect to said intermediate member.

28 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein forming said stop portion comprises punching a reduced portion from said intermediate member to create a reduced range of motion of said panel attachment plate with respect to said intermediate member.

29 (previously presented): An automobile hinge for pivotably mounting a pivotable panel component to a vehicle body, said automobile hinge comprising:

a panel attachment plate adapted to be secured to a pivotable panel of a vehicle;

an intermediate member, said intermediate member comprising first and second leg portions angularly disposed relative to one another, said panel attachment plate being pivotably attached at or near an end of said first leg portion opposite a junction of said first and second leg portions; and

a body attachment plate, said body attachment plate including a plate portion adapted to be secured to a vehicle body and a pair of raised flanges each having a first flange portion and a second flange portion, said first flange portion extending generally transversely from said plate

portion and at least partially along an edge portion of said plate portion, said second flange portion extending generally transversely from said plate portion and at an angle to said first flange portion, said second flange portions being spaced apart and opposing one another and cooperating to define a hinge portion of said body attachment plate, said raised flanges providing structural support to said plate portion, said intermediate member being pivotably attached to said body attachment plate at said hinge portion via a pivot member extending through said second flange portions and through said intermediate member.

30-31 (canceled).

32 (previously presented): The hinge of claim 29, wherein said second leg portion of said intermediate member includes at least one stop extending outwardly therefrom and in a direction generally transverse to a longitudinal axis of said second leg portion, said at least one stop of said second leg portion engaging a portion of at least one of said second flange portions of said body attachment plate to limit pivotal movement of said intermediate member about said pivot member.

33 (original): The hinge of claim 29, wherein said first and second leg portions of said intermediate member comprise opposite sidewalls and a center flange extending between said opposite sidewalls.

34 (original): The hinge of claim 33, wherein said sidewalls of said second leg portion engage said plate portion of said body attachment plate with said center flange being spaced from said plate portion when said intermediate member is pivoted toward a first position where said second leg portion is positioned generally along said plate portion.

35 (original): The hinge of claim 34, wherein said intermediate member is securable in said first position relative to said body attachment plate.

36 (original): The hinge of claim 35, wherein said center flange of said second leg portion includes a fastener portion extending generally toward said plate portion when said intermediate member is in said first position, said intermediate member being securable to said plate portion via a fastener at said fastener receiving portion.

37 (original): The hinge of claim 29, wherein said first leg portion of said intermediate member includes at least one stop adapted to limit the range of pivotal movement of said panel attachment plate with respect to said intermediate member.

38 (original): The hinge of claim 37, wherein said at least one stop is adapted to limit the pivotal movement of said panel attachment plate at different positions by being cut to different sizes during the manufacturing of said automobile hinge.

39 (new): The method of claim 23, wherein said stop and said intermediate member are stamped to have a selected one of at least two forms of said intermediate member to define the desired stopping position of said one of said panel attachment plate and said body attachment plate with respect to said intermediate member at a respective one of at least two orientations.

40 (new): The method of claim 23, wherein securing said first leg portion to said body attachment plate comprises securing said center flange of said first leg portion to said body attachment plate via a fastener.